for the 9th Five Year Plan (1997–2002), for the Department of Fertilizers, is Rs. 11013 crore. Against this, total expenditure of Fertilizers, is Rs. 801.30 crore, Rs. 604.25 crore and Rs. 569 crore was incurred during the years 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, respectively. The new/substantial expansion urea projects of PSUs/Co-operative Societies account for a total outlay of Rs. 7566.25 crore during the Ninth Plan.

(d) to (g) There was low utilisation of plan so far mainly because of non-implementation of the following major new/expansion urea projects of PSUs/Co-operative Societies, which account for a total outlay of Rs. 4825 crore:

(i) Expansion of Hazira plant of KRIBHCO in Gujarat.

(ii) A new urea plant to be set up by KRIBHCO at the existing site of FCI's Gorakhpur Plant in Uttar Pradesh.

(iii) Expansion of Thal Plant of RCF in Maharashtra.

(iv) A grassroots urea-plant to be set up by IFFCO at Nellore in Andhra Pradesh.

In April 1999, Government had given "in principle' approval to these projects, subject to investment appraisal of these projects by the Public Investment Board (PIB). Investment appraisal of all these four urea projects was undertaken by the PIB in July, 1999. In June, 2000, a proposal for taking a final investment decision on these projects was considered and deferred by the Government. This proposal was formulated taking into account the observations of the PIB regarding the viability of the projects, desirability of encouraging use of liquified natural gas as feedstock to reduce the incidenec of subsidy and the needs to stagger implementation of the proposed projects due to limited demand supply gap forecasts.

As these projects have not been taken up for implementation till date, the total outlay for this purpose is not likely to be fully utilised.

**Revival and restructuring of fertilizer companies**

654. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a Group of Ministers for revival and restructuring of four fertilizer companies, besides formulating overall fertilizer policy;

(b) if so, what are its findings; and

(c) by when these would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI STAYA BARTA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c)A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted on 8.6.2001 to examine the rehabilitation / restructuring proposals and submit its recommendations in respect of the four sick fertilizers Public Sector Undertakings. The terms of reference of the GOM does not include the drawing up of the fertilizer policy.

**Funds for Fertilizer Development**

†655.SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds were allocated for fertilizer development during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of total funds allocated;

(c) the target fixed to spend the amount, out of these funds, for the first four years; and

(d) whether funds were spent by the Fertilizer Department out of the allocated funds during first four years of Ninth Five Year Plan; if so, the details of the amount spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BARTA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A total outlay of Rs.20 crore was made during the Ninth Five Year Plan as grant-in-aid for Research and Development in the Fertilizer Sector.

(c) and (d) The actual total plan outlay and the target during the first four years of the 9th Plan period for this purpose was Rs. 16 crore. This amount was released as grant-in-aid by the Department of Fertilizers and has been fully utilised.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.